

Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Serial No. 09/397,814
Page 8

REMARKS

The current application relates to a method of sol-gel processing using an inorganic metal salt and a mixed solvent system. Prior to this Response, Claims 2-10, 12, 16-20, 34-48, 50, and 51 were pending in the above-identified application. By this amendment, Applicants cancel Claims 4, 20, 36, 40 and 45, and Claims 2-3, 5-10, 12, 16-19, 34-35, 37-39, 41-44, 46-48, and 50-51 are pending in the present application. Applicants have amended Claims 19, 34, and 43 to incorporate limitations of respective dependent Claims 4, 36 and 45. Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 39 to correct punctuation, and Claims 5 and 6 to correct their dependency. The amendments do not introduce any new matter. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested in view of these amendments and the following remarks.

November 6, 2003, Telephone Interview

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview on November 6, 2003.

Response to Amendment Filed April 30, 2003

Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner withdrew the finality of the previous Office Action and set forth a new reference.

The Examiner suggests amending temperature ranges in Claims 19 and 20 to avoid misinterpretation. By this amendment, Applicants cancel Claim 20, thus obviating the Examiner's suggestion to amend temperature ranges in Claim 20. Applicants have amended Claim 19 to recite the temperature range from about 20 °C to about 25 °C as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claim 40 as failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. By this amendment, Applicants cancel Claim 40, thus obviating the objection. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Serial No. 09/397,814
Page 9

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a)

The Examiner rejects Claims 7-10, 12, 16, 18-20, 34, 37-43, 46-48 and 50-51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over a publication of the Japanese Patent Office No. JP 09 002818, which claims priority to a Korean Patent Application 9516237 filed June 19, 1995.

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel Claims 4, 20, and 40, thus rendering moot the rejection of these claims. As suggested by the Examiner during the telephone interview of November 6, 2003, Applicants have amended Claims 19, 34, and 43 to incorporate limitations of respective dependent Claims 4, 36, and 45. Following this amendment, independent Claims 19, 34, and 43 now recite a step of "adding a dispersant to the solution." Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment overcomes the rejection of Claims 19, 34, and 43 and claims dependent from them. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejects Claims 2-3, 35, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over JP 09 002818. Applicants respectfully note that Claims 2-3, 35, and 44 are dependent, respectively, on Claims 19, 34, and 43. As suggested by the Examiner during the telephone interview of November 6, 2003, Applicants have amended Claims 19, 34, and 43 to incorporate limitations of their respective dependent Claims 4, 36, and 45. Following the amendment, independent Claims 19, 34, and 43 recite a step of "adding a dispersant to the solution." Rejected Claims 2-3, 35, and 44 depend, respectively, on Claims 19, 34, and 43. Applicants respectfully assert that amendment of the independent claims overcomes the rejection of dependent Claims 2-3, 35, and 44. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 4-6, 17, 36, and 45, dependent on the rejected claims prior to this Response, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claim. As suggested by the Examiner during the telephone interview of November 6, 2003, Applicants have amended Claims 19, 34, and 43 to

Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Serial No. 09/397,814
Page 10

incorporate limitations of allowable dependent Claims 4, 36, and 45. Applicants have cancelled Claims 4, 36, and 45 as redundant. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments render allowable independent Claims 19, 34, and 43, and dependent Claims 2-10, 12, 16-18, 35, 37-39, 41-42, 44, 46-48, and 50-51.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert the Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome and request allowance of claims currently pending in the present application.

Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action
Serial No. 09/397,814
Page 11

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2003. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the application be passed to issuance. If the Examiner believes that any informalities remain in the case which may be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that there are any other issues which can be resolved by a telephone interview, a telephone call to the undersigned agent at (404) 815-6102 is respectfully solicited.

No additional fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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